(e) No such action is proposed.

Reduction in Kerosene Quota to West Bengal

1798. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal had taken up with Government, the issue of reduction of the States quota of Kerosene from 1,16,000 kl. per month to 85,000 Kl.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that essentially most of the Kerosene oil users cannot afford cooking gas;

(d) if so, whether the increase in cooking gas supply connections can be the basis for reducing Kerosene oil quota; and

(e) if not, by when the quota reduction will be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) A request from Government of West Bengal was received.

(b) to (e) Reduction in kerosene allocation for the current fiscal year has been implemented taking into account the number of LPG connections released during April—September, 2000. The State / Union Territory Administrations are expected to rationalise the distribution of kerosene in case of the ration card holders having LPG connections. The kerosene being given to such consumers should become surplus and be available for distribution to consumers who cannot afford cooking gas. State Governments have been informed accordingly.

Setting up of "Indian Oil Foundation" by IOC

† 1799. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Indian Oil Foundation" has been set up by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for safety, protection and promotion of national heritage of India and for providing information about past in future;

(b) if so, whether Gujarat will be incorporated in the second stage after completion of first stage; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the national heritages which will be included in it and by when the second stage of this scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Oil Foundation (IOF) has been set up as a non-profit trust by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to protect, preserve and promote the national heritage of India.

(b) and (c) Five heritage sites have been taken up for development in the first phase. The IOF intends to develop one heritage site in each State / UT. Accordingly, in due course, a site in the State of Gujarat will also be taken up. A number of formalities have to be completed for development of each site, involving various agencies and State Governments. The plans for the second phase will depend on the trend of development in the first phase.

Removal of Government control on prices of petroleum products

1800. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government control on the prices of Petroleum products has to go by April 2002; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) In November, 1997, Government had notified the details of dismantling of administered pricing mechanism in phases to attain full deregulation from April, 2002 onwards in petroleum sector.

(b) The implementation of phased programme commenced on 1.4.1998 and the progress made so far include the following:—

(i) the system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished with effect from 1.4.1998. The refinery gate prices of controlled petroleum products are being fixed on *principle of import parity.*